

CURRENT EVENTS.

A new inland sea has been formed in Southern California, by the inflow of the waters of the Gulf of California into the Salton basin. The flooded district is said to be a hundred miles in length, and twenty-five miles in width. Underground fissures caused by earthquake shocks are supposed to admit the water from the gulf into what has hitherto been a dry basin below sea level.

Fossil bones of a gigantic animal of the dinosaur tribe have been found in Montana. The great saurian was thirty-nine feet long; and, unlike most of the huge animals of that period, was a flesh-eater.

A new paving material, elastic, tough and durable, is now being tried in England. It is made of tar mixed with iron slag, and is called asphaltine.

The oxy-acetylene blowpipe is now employed in welding. It gives a temperature much higher than that of the oxy-hydrogen flame.

A British explorer has visited a part of Abyssinia until now unvisited by white men, and has found there a very rich gold region, and thousands of the natives engaged in washing gold.

The flagship of Prince Louis made the voyage from New York to Gibraltar in seven days, seven hours and ten minutes, the average speed being something over 18.5 knots an hour. This is the highest recorded speed for warships, for such a distance.

The withdrawal of the British troops from the West Indies, which is about completed, is in accordance with the new policy of concentration of the forces. Coaling stations will be maintained at Jamaica and St. Lucia. The strong defences at the latter place, from which the garrison was withdrawn on the fifteenth of last month, will be kept in a state of efficiency; and troops can be quickly sent to occupy them if occasion requires.

It is understood that the dockyards at Halifax and Esquimaux will be transferred to Canada, and become the headquarters of Canadian naval militia for the Atlantic and Pacific coasts respectively.

The resignation of the Balfour government, and the appointment of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman as leader of the new government is the occasion for a change in court ceremonies which recognizes for the first time the position of prime minister in the British government. Hitherto, in all state ceremonies, the premier took rank only as a Privy Councillor. It is now ordered that he shall in future "have place and precedence next after the Archbishop of York." The only persons who rank above the Archbishop of York, excepting members of the royal family, are the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord High Chancellor.

Captain Amundsen, a Norwegian explorer who, for the past two years and a half has been working along the northern coast of Canada in search of the magnetic pole, has, as before announced, succeeded in making the north-west passage. His little vessel, a 47-ton sloop named Gjoa,

in which he left Norway in June, 1903, is now wintering near the mouth of the Mackenzie River, and may easily continue her voyage next summer through Bering Strait to the Pacific Ocean. All the waters through which Captain Amundsen has sailed have been reached by earlier explorers; but his vessel will be the first to enter the Arctic Sea from one great ocean and come out into the other after sailing around the northern end of this continent.

Another explorer intends leaving the mouth of the Mackenzie River next summer in search of unknown lands. His name is Mikelsen, and his purpose is to go northward along the western shores of Banks Land, in the expectation of finding land still further north. If his plans can be carried out, he will return to the mainland for next winter; and make his final effort in the spring of 1907.

Halfway between Sydney and Louisburg, the Cape Breton Coal and Iron Company will build their new town of Broughton, which they will make the headquarters of their business in the development of the great coal beds in that part of Nova Scotia.

Immense deposits of magnetic iron ore have been discovered at the mouth of the Columbia River, and others farther north and in Canadian territory. It is thought that British Columbia will yet have steel works to rival those of Cape Breton and Ontario.

The reassembling of the Hague Conference may be indefinitely postponed, because of the invitation issued some time ago by the government of Switzerland for an international conference at Berne to consider amendments to the Red Cross convention. Until this matter is disposed of, the date of the Hague Conference cannot be fixed.

Turkey has yielded to the demands of the powers in respect to the government of Macedonia.

Encouraged by Japan's success, China seems about to resist foreign influence, and maintain her right to govern her own lands and her own people in her own way. No further concessions, it is said, will be granted to foreigners in Chinese territory; and efforts will be made to cancel those already granted. The Boxer movement was a popular uprising against foreigners as individuals. The new movement is an organized movement for the protection of Chinese sovereign rights against foreign aggression.

Sea gulls have been brought into use as ocean carriers, and may prove as useful in that way as carrier pigeons are on land. Experiments recently made in France have lead to this conclusion.

The premier has summoned a forestry convention to meet at Ottawa on the 10th, 11th and 12th of this month, under the auspices of the Canadian Forestry Association. The preservation of our existing forests, as the most important source of the world's timber supply of the future and the need of tree planting on our western prairies, are among the subjects that will come up for discussion.